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ABSTRACT

In this activity, first grade students learn their addresses and their places in space. Each student pretends they are a student in Ms. Frizzle's class and are to help the class figure out how to get home. The students create their own intergalactic address book, so that on their next trip into the universe they will have a map to guide them back home. The activity plan details an eight step process for the student to conduct the activity. The plan contains 11 online resources; gives learning advice; discusses evaluation; presents concluding questions; offers reflection questions; and furnishes a relevant glossary. The teacher notes states a grade level; provides lesson purpose; addresses history/social studies and language arts standards; sets out specific educational goals and information literacy skills goals; notes resources or materials needed; lists additional Internet resources, as well as videos and books. It also gives background information that might be helpful; identifies interdisciplinary connections for language arts, mathematics, science, art, physical education; and suggests extension activities. (BT)

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Schools of California Online Resources for Education (SCORE): Connecting California's Classrooms to the World

Where am I? My Place in Time and Space

First Grade Activity by Jaime Boston

SO 034 261

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http://score.rims.k12.ca.us/activity/where/

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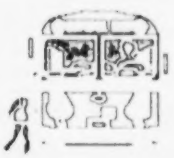
Where Am I?

My Place in Time and Space

Have you ever been lost? What does it feel like? Being lost can be scary if you don't know what to do. What would you do if you were lost in a store? What if you got lost on a camping trip? What if you were in outer space? How would you get home?

The Task

In this activity you will be learning your address and your place in space. After viewing the video, *The Magic School Bus Lost in Space*, you will pretend that you are a student in Ms. Frizzle's class and help the class figure out how to get home. You will create your own intergalactic address book, so that on your next trip into the universe you will have a map to get back home.



The Process

Step 1 - The Magic School Bus Gets Lost in Space. Watch the video until the class gets lost and Ms. Frizzle disappears.

Watch the video from the beginning again, paying close attention to all of the places The Magic School Bus goes. Where did they start? What is the next place they go to? Keep a list. It may help you to retrace their journey and find your way home.

Step 2 - Brainstorm

First brainstorm all of the ways you know that would help you to get home if you were lost.

- How could an adult, like a policeman, help?
- What would you need to know to tell a policeman?
- What is your full address? (House or apartment number, street, town or city, state, country, continent, planet, solar system, galaxy)
- How could a map help you?

List all the places the Magic School Bus visited.

Step 3 - Listen to the story My Place in Space by Robin and Sally Hirst. List as many things as you can about the way Henry described where he lives to the bus driver. Add them to your brainstorm list. Henry lives in Australia. Do you know where that is? Look at the webpage About Australia (http://www.about-australia.com) to see a map of Australia.

Henry can give the bus driver his exact address. Can you tell where you live? If you can't, your homework is to find out your home address (house or apartment number and street name).

Step 4 - How do we know that the information Henry gave the bus driver is correct? First, we better see where Henry lives. Do you remember? Right, it was in Australia. Let's go visit the only country that is also a continent:

- **The Lonely Planet**
  http://www.lonelyplanet.com.au/dest/aust/aus.htm
- **Australian Animal Archive**
  http://www.gullivermedia.com.au/eco.html

Step 5 - Where do you live?

Now that we know about maps, can you find a map of where you live? Here are two map programs that will do that for you.

- Map Blast!

  http://www.vicinity.com/mapblast/

- Lycos

  http://maps.lycos.com/

Can you find a map of California?

- Color Landforms - California maps

  http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/states/ca_0.html

How about the United States and North America?

- Map Machine
  http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/index.html

Step 6 - Blast off!

Now we are ready to leave planet earth and take a guided tour of the Milky Way and the Solar System at these two sites:

- Star Child
  http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/universe_levle1/milky_way.html
- The Milky Way Galaxy- Our Home
  http://www.windows.ucar.edu/cgi.....

Step 7 - Make your own intergalactic address book:

Cover - your name

Page 1- your street address

Page 2- your town

Page 3- your state

Page 4- your country

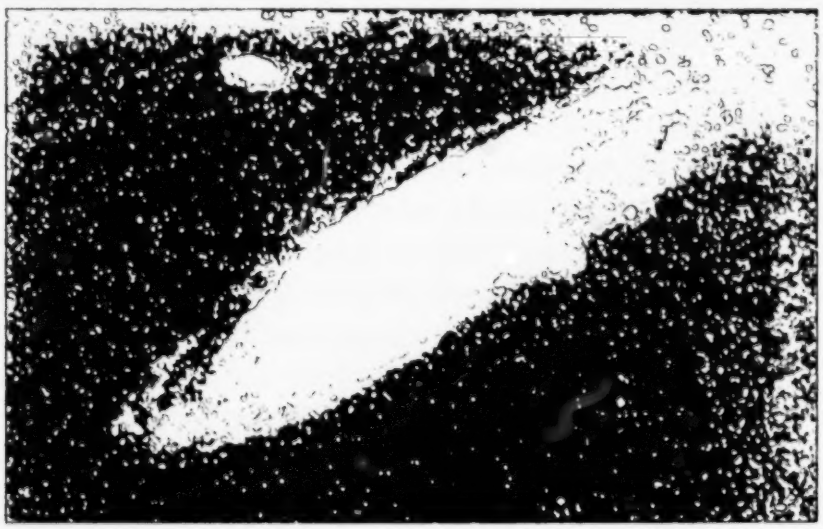
Page 5- your continent

Page 6- your planet

Page 7- your solar neighborhood

Page 8- your galaxy

Decorate each page with pictures of the location.



Step 8 - Take an imaginary bus ride around your classroom. Be prepared to be like Henry and give your full address to the bus driver. You cannot get on the bus until you tell the driver your full address.

Resources

Internet:

- About Australia

  http://www.about-australia.com Covers information on accommodations, attractions, tours, places of interest, culture, education, maps and weather.

- Australian Animal Archive

  http://www.aaa.com.au/A_Z/ An archive of animals from the Great Southern Island Continent Australia arranged in an alphabetical listing.

- Color Landforms - California Maps

  http://fermi.jhuapl.edu/states/ca_0.html Shows the following maps of California: Shaded relief map, County map, Northern California, Southern California, Satellite image, and PostScript map.

- Compass Tag

  http://www.eduplace.com/ss/act/compass.html Children play a game using the cardinal directions to locate different objects around the classroom.

- The Lonely Planet

  http://www.lonelyplanet.com.au/dest/aust/aus.htm The Lonely Planet is a virtual tour of Australia including the Opera House, Ayers Rock, the drama of the outback, the Great Barrier Reef, and the cosmopolitanism of Sydney.

- Map Adventures

  http://www.usgs.gov/education/learnweb/MA/#nikki Go with Nikki to visit an imaginary amusement park. Nikki goes up in an unplanned balloon ride that gives her, and you, different views of the park.

- Map Blast!

http://www.mapblast.com/ Create a detailed street map of any city in the United States.

- Map Machine

  http://www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/maps/ Viewable and downloadable physical or political maps of the world are provided.

- Map Maker, Map Maker, Make Me a Map

  http://www.calmis.cahwnet.gov/file/occguide/CARTOGPH.HTM Find out how cartographers (mapmakers) help us get where we want to go.

- The Nine Planets

  http://dept.physics.upenn.edu/nineplanets/intro.html The Nine Planets is a collection of information about our Solar System.

- Star Child

  http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/universe_level1/milky_way.html This is a learning center for the young astronomer that covers the universe, the solar system and "space stuff".

Learning Advice

To help you create your address book:

- keep a paper and pencil with you to write down any ideas.
- keep a folder to save any pictures that you find that you might want to use to illustrate your address book.

Evaluation

You will be graded by:

- how well you can recite your whole address.
- the completion of your individual address book.
- your cooperation in completing tasks.

Conclusion

There is a vast universe that surrounds us and many ways to find where you are. Go back to the brainstorm sheet from step 1. Can you add anything to it? Is there information that you originally wrote down that is incorrect? Correct it.

Reflection

What do I know now that I didn't before? What did I do best? What could I have done better? What activity did I like best?

Glossary

Address: The place where a person lives.

Continent: One of the seven land divisions of Earth.

Country: A nation.

Galaxy: A large collection of stars, gas and dust found in the universe.

Globe: A round model of the earth.

Intergalactic: Between galaxies.

Map: A flat model of the earth.

Planet: An object that revolves around the sun

Solar System: The sun and the planets and other objects that revolve around it.

State: A territory of a country.

universe: All of the matter and space that exists, including countries, contenents, the Earth, our solar system, and the whole galaxy!

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Teacher Notes

Grade Level Focus:

Grade 1/Expanding Children's Geographic and Economic Worlds

Note: Although the lesson above is written directly to the students, you will, of necessity at the first grade level, have to read, interpret and direct the lesson for them.

Lesson Purpose:

For students to learn their addresses and to gain a sense of connection between their neighborhood and the rest of the world and the universe.

Standards:

Draft H/SS Standards Grade 1: Students acquire and process information from a spatial perspective; compare and contrast the absolute and relative locations of people, places and environments; and describe the physical and human characteristics of places.

Language Arts Grade 1 Reading: Students read and respond to grade level appropriate material...Speaking Applications: Students deliver brief recitations and oral presentations about familiar experiences...

Goals:

The student will:

- Be able to recite his/her address.
- Recognize that maps are used to locate places.
- Recognize that maps use the directions north, south, east and west.
- Be able to identify the state, country, continent, planet, solar neighborhood and galaxy.

Information Literacy Skills:

Students will:

- Learn that information can be found and verified in multiple sources and formats.
- Organize address information from smallest (close) to largest (far).

Length of Lesson: The length of the lesson depends on how much detail you go into. One of the optional activities that you may decide to do is to make a scale model of the school out of boxes, milk cartons, etc. That alone, however, may take a week. If you spend some time exploring Australia, that too could easily take another week. First graders have a way of finding all sorts of wonders to explore. If you can do it, a quick version should take about ten 45 to 60 min. sessions.

Resources or materials needed:

- Maps of California, the USA, North America
- Globes
- Models of the solar system.
- Posters depicting the solar system, the Milky Way, etc
- Old magazines with pictures of space or locations on Earth
- Various sizes of boxes, construction paper, etc. to create a model of the school

Additional Internet resources:

- Academy Curricular Exchange

  http://ofcn.org/cyber.serv/academy/ace/soc/cecsst/cecsst115.html Contains a lesson entitled Orienteering: Map Skills designed for K-3 students. The lesson deals with following map directions. Resource type: text Graphics Content: None

- Space

  http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/ Amazing Space is a set of web-based activities primarily designed for classroom use, but made available for all to enjoy.

- Working with Maps

  http://info.er.usgs.gov/education/teacher/what-do-maps-show/index.html The lessons designed for 5th to 8th grade include an introduction to maps, what you need to know to read a map, what you can learn from a map, and how to read a topographic map.

Videos:

The Magic School Bus Gets Lost in Space. Kid Vision, 1995

(If this video is not available at your school, you can purchase it by calling 1-800-3-KIDVID. When ordering, please ask for specific episode and title)

Books:

Birdseye. A Song of Stars Holiday 1990 (folktale)

Branley. Planets in Our Solar System Crowell, 1987

Bruchac The Story of the Milky Way Dial, 1995 (folktale)

Chesanow Where Do I Live? Barron, 1995

Cole The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System Scholastic, 1990

Fletcher The Universe is My Home Science & Art, 1992

Gibbons The Planets Holiday, 1993

Hadley Legends of the Sun and the Moon Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1983 (folktale)

Hirst My Place in Space Orchard, 1992

Lauber You're Aboard Spaceship Earth Harper Collins, 1996

Leedy Blast Off to Earth!: A Look at Geography Holiday, 1992

Leedy Postcards From Pluto Holiday, 1993

Livingston Space Songs Holiday, 1988 (poetry)

Mayes Earth and Space EDC, 1995

Rosen Which Way to the Milky Way Carolrhoda, 1992

Ryder Earthdance Holt, 1996 (poetry)

Sweeny Me on the Map Crown 1996

Wolkenstein White Wave HBJ, 1996 (folktale)

Background Information that might be helpful:

Lesson sequence: You may start the lesson with the smallest (house address) and moving out to the Milky Way, or by starting in outer space and zeroing into the local area.

Student product: Students will recite their intergalactic address and make an illustrated address book.

When doing the recital of addresses, it is fun to make a bus. You can have the students make the front end of a bus out of cardboard, create a full-length, cardboard bus with windows, or make it totally imaginary. Have the bus stop at each student. The students can get on and ride around the room with you as you add riders.

The address book can be made to go from smallest to largest if you start with the center paper and fold it so that the top page is 1/2 inch above the bottom one. Place the next paper on top and fold it so that the top page is 1/2 inch above the previous top page and the new last page will extend 1/2 inch below. Continue in this pattern four times to give you the needed eight pages. Staple on the center-fold. If your students are capable of copying information accurately, you can just give them blank books. If they are still having difficulty with that, you can print a cue on each page before folding and stapling. For example, "My name is ---", "I live at---". Have the students illustrate the pages with their own drawings, computer images, or cut-outs from discarded magazines.

Adaptations for special needs students:

Students of all abilities at this age may not yet be reading or proficient computer users. Try to group students for reading and computer use so that at least one student reads and another can operate the computer. Have address booklets preprinted, folded and stapled.

Interdisciplinary Connections

Language Arts: Writing an address book, listening to or reading books, including poetry and folktales

Math: Scale, measuring

Science: Space and Space Exploration

Art: Paintings of space and the earth, construction of school map, illustration of the address book.

Physical education: "Simon says", tag, measuring a mile (walk a mile)

Extension Activities:

If you want to teach map skills in this unit you may add the following activities:

A Look at Globes and Maps- How do we know when a map is right side up? A globe is round, so we could look at it from any place, but where do we call the top of the world? How is a map different from a globe? What directions are indicated on a map? Which wall in your classroom faces North? Label the walls North, South, East and West. Play a Simon Says game or Compass Tag (http://www.eduplace.com/ss/act/compass.html) using these directions.

Using maps- A map is a picture of a part of the earth, but it isn't a picture like a camera would take. Maps don't have everything on them that you could see if you were up in an airplane. Why do we use maps? Let's take a hot-air balloon ride and learn more about maps and globes using this story about a park.

Map Adventures

http://www.usgs.gov/education/learnweb/MA/#nikki

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